



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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SUBMISSIONS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Annex 1: List of international organizations that contributed to the Draft Strategic Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, considered the document, *Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biodiversity*. It recognized that reports submitted by international organizations, describing their work of relevance to genetic resources for food and agriculture, had made a significant contribution to the Commission's work.¹
2. The Commission decided that, in the context of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), future consultations with such organizations would focus on matters being addressed at each session.²
3. The Commission further underscored the importance of the Multi-Year Programme of Work as an excellent vehicle to strengthen cooperation in relation to biodiversity for food and agriculture between FAO and other relevant international bodies. It requested FAO to seek synergies and build partnerships with relevant international organizations, to facilitate the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work.³
4. On June 1, 2009, the Commission's Secretariat despatched a Circular State Letter, inviting international organizations, including United Nations and other Inter-governmental Organizations, International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and International Non-governmental Organizations to:
 - i. provide comments and suggestions on the Commission's key working document, the *Draft Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work*;
 - ii. identify possible areas of collaboration with FAO and its Commission in support of the implementation of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work and indicate possible mechanisms for cooperation; and
 - iii. provide reports to the Commission on their on-going policies, programmes and activities relevant to the prioritised themes of the Commission's Twelfth Regular Session.
5. A significant number of international organizations submitted comment and suggestions regarding the Commission's *Draft Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work*. Their inputs were used by the Commission's Bureau and its Secretariat to review the *Plan* at the Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Commission's Eleventh Regular Session, which was held in Rome, Italy, from 21 to 22 July 2009. The complete list of international organizations that contributed to revising and improving the *Draft Strategic Plan* can be found in *Annex 1* to this document.
6. The Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y enseñanza (CATIE), the League for Pastoral Peoples (LPP) and the LIFE-Network, the SAVE Foundation and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) provided inputs on possible areas of collaboration with FAO and its Commission in support of the implementation of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work, and submitted reports on their relevant on-going policies, programmes and activities. Their contributions are provided in this document in the language in which they were received. The inputs from the International Agricultural Research

¹ CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 83.

² CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 84.

³ CGRFA-11/07/Report paragraph 92.

Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) were submitted in a single consolidated report, that is given in *Annex 2* to this document.

II. POSSIBLE AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH FAO AND ITS COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMISSION'S MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

2.1. League for Pastoral Peoples (LPP) and LIFE-Network

7. As the League for Pastoral Peoples (LPP) has co-founded and supported the LIFE-Network for Community-Based Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) which seeks to combine biodiversity conservation with rural poverty alleviation, we note with approval the importance accorded by the FAO Conference to the role of small-scale livestock keepers as custodians of most of the world's animal genetic resources in the use, development and conservation of livestock resources.

8. The LIFE-Network has partners around the globe and is working through regional coordinators in Africa and India. The majority of partners are NGOs that work in close cooperation with local livestock-keeping communities and support them to participate in policy-making processes, as well as with marketing the products of their indigenous breeds.

9. Based on the experience of LPP and the LIFE-Network, we regard the following strategies as crucial for supporting the role of small-scale livestock keepers in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action:

- i. Documentation and recording indigenous livestock breeds.
- ii. The FAO Global Plan of action recognizes the importance of documenting the existing livestock breeds as a way of promoting recognition, conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources. LIFE Network has pioneered a participatory methodology that enables livestock keepers together with scientists to document and record their own breeds in a way that recognizes their holistic value and use. We have so far tested this methodology with a number of indigenous livestock breeds in Asia and East Africa. We intend to develop this methodology further and main stream it into the conventional breed documentation and recording so as to enable both scientists and livestock keepers develop more appropriate methods for conserving and sustainably use these breeds.
- iii. Development of Biocultural Protocols. Biocultural Protocols (BCP) document the role of livestock keeping communities in the conservation and sustainable use of indigenous breeds as well as their eco-system services. First experiences with this approach in India indicate that it is a powerful tool for raising awareness of both communities and government, as well as other stakeholders, about the role of small-scale livestock keepers as custodians of animal genetic resources and the environment. The establishment of further BCPs with various communities in South Asia and East Africa planned. If the results hold the promise of the initial experiences, there will be a strong rationale for extending this approach more systematically to other livestock keeping communities around the world.
- iv. Support for niche-marketing and value-addition of products of indigenous breeds. Indigenous breed represent assets with an inherent potential for natural and specialty products with a distinct flavour, heritage character and regional flair. Experiences by LIFE-Network partner Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) in India have demonstrated the potential of creating a wide range of products that appeal to modern consumer needs from an animal – the camel – that seemed to be doomed after the loss of its transport function. However, the existing experiences also make clear that small-scale livestock keepers usually do not have the capacity to develop this potential on their own. Instead, they require strong institutional support as well as linkages with private enterprise in

order to build up sustainable value-chains. There is need for the involvement of social entrepreneurs to support custodians of AnGR to reach the market. We therefore suggest the establishment of an institutional mechanism that will support establishment of collaboration between livestock keepers and private enterprise.

- v. Development of a Code of Conduct on Livestock Keepers' Rights. The formal granting of Livestock Keepers' Rights would be a logical follow-up to the concept of Farmers' Rights that is enshrined in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. While Livestock Keepers' Rights are not mentioned in the Interlaken Declaration or the Global Plan of Action, they remain a much debated topic and diverse stakeholders have expressed their support for the concept. As the result of a workshop held with lawyers in Africa in December 2008, the idea emerged to develop a "Code of Conduct" to which scientists, governments and other stakeholders can voluntarily adhere to in appreciation of the need to support the role of small-scale livestock keepers in the management of AnGR. We have started organizing multi-stakeholder consultations on such a Code of Conduct as it would be an important means of enabling governments, researchers and other stakeholders to support the role of small-scale livestock keepers as custodians of the most of the world's AnGR.

10. LPP and the LIFE-Network look forward to collaborating with FAO in all of the above mentioned areas.

III. REPORTS ON ON-GOING POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THE PRIORITISED THEMES OF THE COMMISSION'S TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION

3.1. Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)

Recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura

11. El CATIE continúa apoyando las actividades de la red regional REMERFI a través de la participación de un miembro de su staff como secretario pro tempore. En esa Red, junto con el IICA y Bioersity Internacional (BI), ha desempeñado una intensa labor en el desarrollo de capacidades, así como, en el fortalecimiento de los sistemas nacionales de Recursos Fitogenéticos. También ha apoyado en la formulación de la estrategia sub-regional y regional de los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura del Global Crop Diversity Trust.

12. Conjuntamente con el IICA y REMERFI, formularon la propuesta de investigación "Regeneration and Safety Duplication of Regionally Prioritized Crop Collections, por medio de la cual se hará la regeneración de las colecciones nacionales de maíz y frijol. Participarán Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua y Panamá, con financiamiento del Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT)

13. Se apoyó una iniciativa nacional de Costa Rica, impulsada por el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, La Oficina Nacional de semillas, La Comisión Nacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos y la FAO, con el aporte de información para el segundo informe nacional del estado de los recursos fitogenéticos, que actualmente es parte del informe mundial y la base para la estrategia futura de la conservación y utilización sostenible de los recursos para la agricultura y la alimentación.

14. En diciembre del 2008 se actualizó el inventario de la colección de café, y todas aquellas accesiones que contaran únicamente con 1 o 2 plantas fueron injertadas para su reintroducción a la colección. Además estas accesiones están siendo criocongeladas para asegurar su mantenimiento.

15. El resto de colecciones de campo ha venido siendo mantenida y mejorada.
16. Con apoyo del GCDT, se ha venido trabajando en la regeneración en campo e invernadero, de germoplasma de frijol, vigna, canavalia, cucúrbitas, crotalaria, amaranto, tomate, maíz y chile que se encuentran almacenados tanto en cámara a (-17 C), como de las colecciones vivas en campo (pejibaye, café, zapote, guayaba y chicozapote). Este germoplasma está siendo distribuido entre diferentes solicitantes.
17. Con apoyo también del GCDT se iniciaron actividades del proyecto de regeneración in vitro de la colección de Dioscorea, que contempla la caracterización morfológica y molecular de 60 accesiones, así como tratamientos de termoterapia y cultivo in vitro. De igual manera se presentó una propuesta para la caracterización morfológica y molecular de 40 accesiones de Manihot, así como cultivo in vitro.
18. Durante el 2008 se realizó satisfactoriamente la siembra de la colección de ñame y se le dio un adecuado mantenimiento. En cuanto a la colección de yuca, se inició su regeneración, pero se continúa con la resiembra en el 2009.
19. En la parte de germoplasma mejorado de cacao, se ha venido evaluando 25 mil árboles de cacao sembrados en diferentes ensayos con el objeto de hacer una selección de los mejores candidatos para ser incluidos en las siguientes fases del programa de mejoramiento genético. Este germoplasma mejorado está siendo distribuido en diferentes entidades privadas y públicas de Centro América.

3.2. European SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)

Status Quo and Outlook for 2009

20. SAVE Foundation acts as European umbrella organization for the promotion and coordination of activities for the conservation of endangered breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties in the form of live populations. The SAVE Network comprises of 20 Non-governmental Organisations in 15 European countries. Project involvement currently takes place in 36 European countries.

Running projects

21. *International Networks*
- Balkan-Network - cross-border coordination of conservation measures, establishment of rare breed centres, and workshops and knowledge exchange with local partners.
 - “Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in the Carpathians” continuation of the project – Phase III: Intensification of search for lost livestock breeds, establishment of Ark network, continuation of collections of fruit specimen, focus on rural development and remote areas.
European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net (ELBARN) – www.elbarn.net. A three year coordination project co-funded by the European Commission, the aim of the project is to produce clear guidelines and action plans, through discussion in international work groups, to promote “Ark Centres” for coordinating and promoting in situ/on farm coordination of autochthonous breeds and to work out strategies of protecting these breeds in the case of epidemics or other emergencies (rescue). The marketing of products and services of the breeds is also an integral part of the project.
 - Arca-Net extension and promotion – www.arca-net.info. The online travel guide to institutions that are open to the public and show a range of traditional livestock breeds and cultivated plants.

- Arca-Net offers correct but understandable background information as a complement to the information already available through international databases such as EFABIS;
- Arca-Net acts as a “tourist guide” for anyone interested in seeing interesting animals and plants;
- many interesting excursions for families are on offer as well as farm holidays and educational outings for schools or a chance to see how traditional products are made; and
- All Arca-Net institutions are open to the public.

22. *Monitoring Projects*

- “Alpine Knowledge” feasibility study - conservation of traditional knowledge about agrobiodiversity, documentation within a searchable database. The one-year-feasibility study includes
 - Development of an information platform
 - Development of a systematic for collection of knowledge by different sources (Libraries, Internet, Museums, Persons)
 - Development of categories and contents
- Conservation of Agrobiodiversity and Management of Ecosystems in Greece - aims to resolve problems in the field of conservation, breeding concepts, herdbooks or registers.
- Animal Genetic Resources in Romania - Monitoring, Networking, Conservation (in preparation).

23. *Rescue Projects*

- Pig breeds in Velipoje, Albania – creation of a breeding group, raising public awareness, together with local partners.
- European Buffaloes - Rescue Action is running in Transcarpathia, network of experts is developing.

Projects that are not yet (fully) funded

24. *International Networks*

- Fruit Net extension - addition of wild fruits and berries. To save the genetic diversity of "forgotten" fruit and berry varieties for future needs, specific efforts are required. The last still existing diversity of varieties has to be recorded, the individual conservation efforts have to be linked and co-ordinated. New activities and an exchange of information are stimulated by information that is made accessible for everybody.
- Network for the management of feral populations – survey of feral populations in Europe, collection of best practice and experiences in management, investigate status of populations, network of experts and stakeholders, impact assessments (ecology, disease etc).

25. *Monitoring Projects*

- Long-Term Monitoring in the Alpine Region – the next phase of the successful monitoring of the agrobiodiversity of the Alpine region is due to start. This will be the fourth monitoring project in the Alpine region and will take the form of assessing the risk status of the traditional Alpine livestock breeds and cultivated plants. An address list of stakeholders will be published online, as requested by stakeholders in the region.

26. *Basic Projects*

- Register of Synonyms of Fruit Varieties - continuation of the project. In the multilingual Europe the diversity of names is often a handicap for cross-border co-operation. Even in the same language, an old variety may have many different regional names and synonyms, which hinders conservation efforts. Thus SAVE-Monitoring launched an online-dictionary and synonym-register for fruit varieties. In the first step, several thousand names and synonyms of apple varieties should be listed online in seven languages (English, German, French, Czech, Slovakian, Russian and Polish). Some of this work has already been achieved and temporary access to the data can be granted on request.
- Development of a Trademark for products of autochthonous breeds and plants – the promotion of these products is the basis for the reintegration of autochthonous breeds and plants into agricultural production. In order to add value to these, often special and/or niche, products a trademark is being developed to help consumers identify them in the market place.

3.3. International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

27. The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) is an intergovernmental organization, established by the International Convention for the Protection of new Varieties of Plants (“the UPOV Convention”). The Mission of the UPOV is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society.

28. Since the UPOV report was submitted to the Eleventh Regular Session of the CGRFA in June 2007, a further three States have become members of UPOV (Turkey in October 2007, Georgia in November 2008 and Costa Rica in January 2009).

29. As of July 3, 2009, UPOV had 67 members, including developed and developing countries. Furthermore, 17 states and one intergovernmental organization (the African Intellectual Property Organization) have initiated, with the Council of UPOV, the procedure for becoming members of the Union and 45 other States have been in contact with the Office of the Union with a view to developing legislation in line with the UPOV Convention.

30. The number of applications for plant variety protection under the UPOV system is growing continuously, indicating enhanced breeding activities and an increasing number of varieties that are becoming available to farmers and growers. In 2007, 13,164 applications for protection of new plant varieties were received by UPOV members, 10,361 titles of protection were granted and 72,565 titles of protection were in force by the end of 2007.

31. UPOV has undertaken activities at the request of more than 80 countries in the regions of Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean region, Africa and countries in transition to a market economy. UPOV also provides a Distance Learning Course: Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection. Information on the UPOV Distance Learning Course can be found on the UPOV website as follows:
<http://www.upov.int/en/about/training.html>.

32. In 2005, UPOV published a report on the impact of plant variety protection which involved a study in five UPOV members (Argentina, China, Kenya, Poland and the Republic of Korea). The report indicated that the introduction of the UPOV system of plant variety protection and membership of the UPOV Convention provide an effective incentive for plant breeding in many different situations and result in the development of new, improved varieties of benefit for farmers, growers and consumers. The report is available on the UPOV website as follows:
http://www.upov.int/export/sites/upov/en/publications/pdf/353_upov_report.pdf.

ANNEX 1**LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE
DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

European SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)

Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

League for Pastoral Peoples (LPP) and LIFE-Network

International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

World Trade Organization (WTO)